



## Spring 2015 Driving Season and Exception Request Procedures

As we enter the spring driving season, the National Park Service is reminding all *resident* permit holders of the times in which restrictions begin. These restrictions are the same as past years and affect all over-sand vehicle use through the West Checkpoint and across all Federal lands on Fire Island. Beginning in May, the restrictions are as follows:

- May 2 through May 22: Weekend restrictions: Saturday and Sunday driving may occur before 9:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m.
- May 24 through 6:00 p.m. May 26 (Memorial Day): No driving is authorized
- May 26 through June 26: Weekday restrictions: Monday through Friday: driving may occur before 9:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: driving is unauthorized. **Please note we've extended driving to accommodate the extended school calendar**
- June 27 through September 7: No driving is authorized.

Exceptions to these restrictions will be reviewed case-by-case. All exception requests are required in writing. Exception requests must be submitted at least one business day prior to when the requested driving will need to occur. The Fire Island National Seashore headquarters staff will review all advance requests to drive. The West Checkpoint Ranger Station will review emergency requests occurring on weekends. Any submitted request must have supporting information/documentation, and state why ferry service will not support the permit holder's needs.

- As an example, if you work on Long Island, and you start at 4:00 p.m. but work until 10:00 p.m., and the last ferry departing Bay Shore to Fire Island is at 9:30 p.m., the National Park Service can approve you to drive your permitted vehicle off Fire Island prior to 6:00 p.m. As an example of supporting documentation, you may submit a copy of your work schedule with your request.

Requests for after-school appointments may be approved with sufficient notice and required documentation

- As an example, If your child completes a tutoring session or sports practice at 5:00 p.m. The National Park Service can approve you to drive your permitted vehicle off Fire Island prior to 6:00 p.m. You will have to wait until after 6:00 p.m. to return to your Fire Island residence by vehicle, or you have the option to use an earlier ferry.

If the appointment is an official school function (graduation, prom, final exam), please note the function so we may verify it on the school calendar.

Requests for medical appointments must be documented though a letter from the doctor providing your treatments. If it is a day-time appointment during restricted hours, please provide justification demonstrating why the ferry will not meet your needs.

Permit holders must submit their exception request by email: [fins\\_driving@nps.gov](mailto:fins_driving@nps.gov) or by fax: 631-289-4898. The Seashore can deny any request if it's determined there is adequate ferry service or the request would impair and cause degradation to park resources. As a reminder, please provide at least one full business day notice for the park to review the request.